

WORK SESSION OF THE GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL held Wednesday, August 1, 2012, for the purpose of meeting with local watershed groups.

Mayor Davis started the meeting at 8:10 p.m. It was held in the Multipurpose Room of the Community Center.

PRESENT WERE: Councilmembers Konrad E. Herling, Emmett V. Jordan, Leta M. Mach, Silke I. Pope, Edward V.J. Putens, Rodney M. Roberts and Mayor Judith F. Davis.

STAFF PRESENT WERE: David Moran, Assistant City Manager; and Cindy Murray, City Clerk.

ALSO PRESENT WERE: Cary Coppock, Vicky Hageman, and Lutz Rastaetter, Citizens to Conserve and Restore Indian Creek; Michel Cavigelli and Mark Christal, Beaverdam Creek Watershed Watch Group; Michele Touchet and Bill Duncan, Friends of Still Creek; Jessica Wilde, Greenbelt News Review; and Bill Orleans.

Mayor Davis welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Vicky Hageman, Citizens to Conserve and Restore Indian Creek (CCRIC), said CCRIC had sponsored several creek maintenance projects and developed several new informational brochures over the past year. She commented that CCRIC was struggling with maintaining an active membership.

Michel Cavigelli, Beaverdam Creek Watershed Watch Group (BCWWG), said their group had sponsored several stream cleanups, held quarterly stream invertebrate monitoring, and various nature and watershed walks. He reported that recent water samplings indicate the watershed appears to be fairly healthy. Mr. Cavigelli reported there appeared to be some type of water filtering research project at the Beltsville Agriculture Research Center (BARC) involving some tree removal on BARC property. Council requested staff contact BARC for details.

Bill Duncan, Friends of Still Creek, said their group works closely with the Alice Ferguson Foundations and had also sponsored several watershed cleanup events. He reported that the water quality of Still Creek was not good, due in part to the flooding problems from Greenbelt Park and the large amount of impervious surface in Greenbelt East. Michele Touchet requested that some type of fencing be placed around the City recycling center on Hanover Drive to reduce the amount of trash that blows into the Sunrise Property. She also reported there were several downed trees on the gravel access road to Greenbrook Lake.

Representatives from all the groups commented on their outreach efforts at the Labor Day Festival, Green Man Festival, FallFest and other local events. Mr. Herling suggested the groups consider utilizing the Greenbelt Access Television (GATE) public service announcements.

There was discussion regarding the Sunnyside Road Bridge project. Mayor Davis said staff was closely monitoring this project. Cary Coppock expressed concerns regarding the environmental

impacts. Mayor Davis noted that Council sent a letter to the Maryland Department of Transportation expressing its opposition to the Beltsville site for construction of the CSX Intermodal Facility.

Council thanked the watershed groups for all their work. Mr. Duncan, Ms. Touchet, Mr. Cavigelli and Mr. Coppock thanked the Council and City staff for their support.

Informational Items

Mr. Putens requested staff provide an update on the status of the Organizational Assessment as soon as possible.

Mr. Jordan expressed concern that bike riders were having a difficult time maneuvering through the construction project on Cherrywood Lane by Metro Drive and asked if better arrangements could be provided. Mr. Moran will check with staff.

The meeting ended at 9:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Cindy Murray
City Clerk*